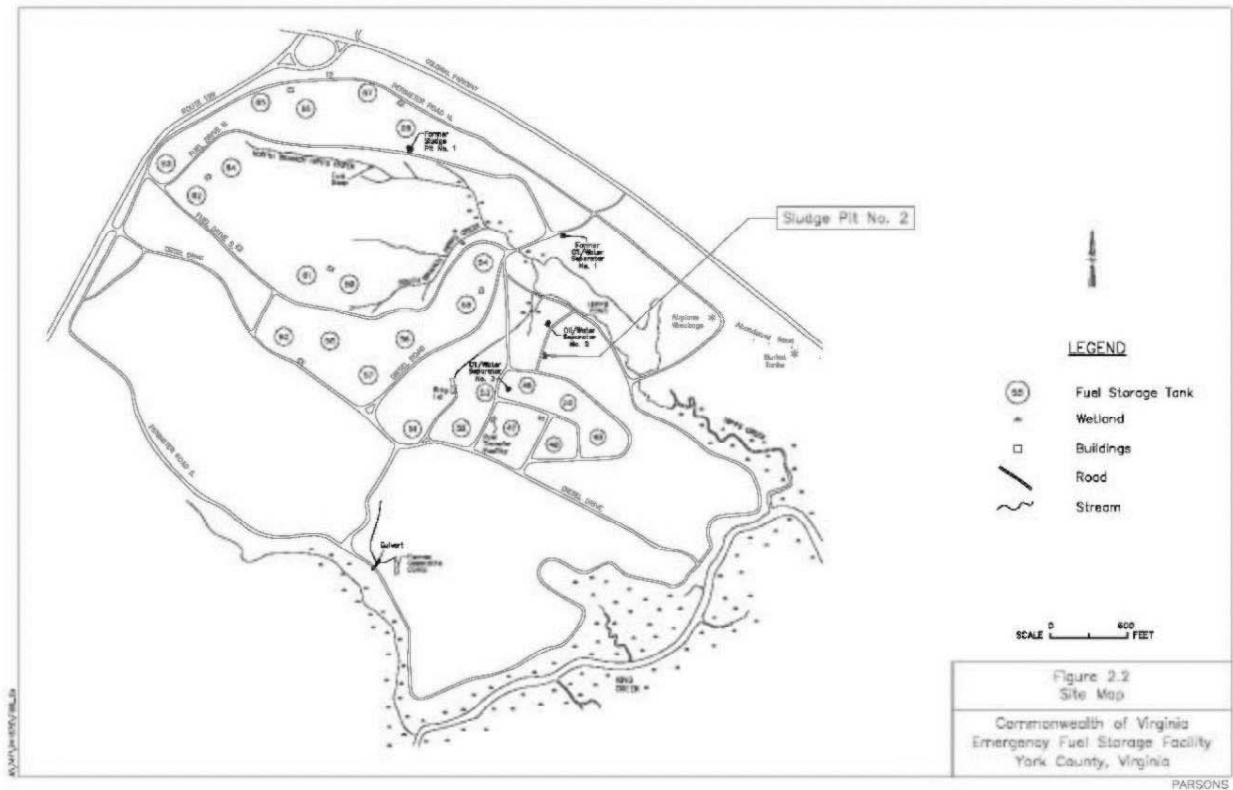


# Virginia Emergency Fuel Storage Facility

**Junction VA Routes 641and 199**  
**Yorktown, VA 23690**  
**Congressional District 1**  
**EPA ID #: VAD988193223**  
**Last Updated 12/17/2003**



## Current Progress at the Site

Pursuant to the Inter-Agency Cleanup Agreement, Virginia Department of Emergency Services has completed delineation of the site contamination and clean out of all 23 two-million-gallon tanks to eliminate the primary source of release. Five discrete groundwater plumes contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons were identified at the site. Hips Pond and portions of two influent ravines were found to be heavily contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons in the sediments, though the surface water was only slightly contaminated through many years of natural flushing. A final remedy was selected in 1997 that included the following components: (1) Structural upgrade of the pond outlet dam to prevent catastrophic release of contaminated sediments to downstream sensitive wetlands; (2) Remediation of a sludge pit and a cosmoline dump by

excavation and removal; (3) Institutional controls to prevent public access to the contaminated portion of the facility by installing fencing and warning signs; and (4) Providing long-term monitoring data to EPA to demonstrate the progress of natural attenuation. The Final Decision was issued in 1997 and by August 2002, all remedy construction work has been completed. There is recent interest in economic development of the contaminated portion of the land which is described below under Community Interaction section.

In October 2003, Virginia informed EPA that it has leased the facility to York County which has delineated a portion of the site to develop into a public golf course. Virginia indicated that because of the proposed land use change, it will work with York County and the developer to formulate an institutional controls plan for EPA approval prior to start work..

## **Site Description**

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The Virginia Emergency Fuel Storage Facility, York County, Virginia, was formerly owned by the Navy and was a part of the Navy's Cheatham Annex. The 460-acre Facility contains 23 two-million-gallon underground tanks and several miles of underground fuel lines. Between 1973 and early 1980s, the Virginia Department Of Emergency Services (VDES) leased the Facility from the Navy to store fuels during the energy crisis. In 1981, the Commonwealth of Virginia purchased the Facility from the Navy, but shut it down in September 1982. Between 1991 and 1992, the news media criticized the Virginia Department of Waste Management for mis-managing the Facility, ignoring the contamination from fuel spills, and violation of environmental laws the agency was supposed to enforce. In July 1991, EPA conducted a multi-media team inspection of the Facility to investigate the accusations. As a result of the inspection, EPA convinced Virginia to enter into an Inter-Agency Cleanup Agreement in April 1992 which enables EPA to oversee the cleanup investigation.

## **Site Responsibility**

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The Virginia Emergency Fuel Storage facility is one of 284 high priority hazardous waste management facilities identified on the EPA Region 3 GPRAs baseline universe list. In April 1992, EPA and Virginia entered into an Inter-Agency Cleanup Agreement that enabled EPA to oversee Virginia Department of Emergency Services conduct cleanup activities at the facility.

## **Contaminants**

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The contaminants of concern are typical petroleum constituents: benzene, toluene xylenes and ethylbenzene in groundwater, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in soil and sediments. The groundwater plumes are confined onsite and there is no current usage of the site groundwater. The sediments in two ravines and a pond at the facility are heavily contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons and the aquatic habitat onsite has been impacted. However, ecological survey has not shown any evidence of offsite impact. Monitoring data of the pond discharge show that it has met state discharge permit limits. As a component of the remedy, the pond outlet dam will be structurally upgraded to permanently contain the contaminated sediments.

## Community Interaction

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This 460-acre state-owned facility has been abandoned since 1982. The site is located within a few miles of popular tourist attractions (Colonial Williamsburg National Historic Park, Jamestown Settlement, Busch Gardens . . . etc.) in and around Williamsburg, Virginia. Recognizing the value of this large piece of land, York County is interested in turning the abandoned land into productive use. The County has been talking to the State on the proposed golf course development, but funding for the cleanup has been the issue. EPA is supportive of the proposed brown field development, however, with a condition that the development shall be proceeded with EPA oversight to ensure that existing site contamination will not negatively impact human health or the environment. Special attention shall be given to existing contaminated pond sediments of which disturbance shall be minimized to prevent human exposure or release to downstream sensitive wetlands.

## Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)